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Application Serial No. 10/760,363
Reply to Office Action of 12/26/07

REMARKS

Base claim 7 is amended to read,

Claim 7 A navigation device that provides notification information to a user of a movable body, when the movable body is approaching a feature, the device comprising:

a storage that stores a map information and a feature notification information;

a current position information acquiring section that acquires a current position information for the current position of the movable body;

a destination recognizer that acquires a destination information relating to a destination of the movable body;

a route processor that searches for a movement path using the map information based on the current position and the destination; and

a guidance providing section that provides the notification information on the feature to the user, wherein

the notification information including a unique description of the feature for the user, and first unique mesh information corresponding to a position of the feature and second unique mesh information corresponding to the notification position, the unique mesh information being assigned into a plurality of sub-areas divided as a matrix so that only one position of any feature or of any notification position is contained in and associated with any one sub-area.

wherein, when the movable body moving along the movement path reaches a position corresponding to one of the sub-areas corresponding to the notification position, the guidance providing section recognizes that the movable body is located at the notification position represented by the corresponding unique sub-area and provides the description of the feature associated with the notification position to the user.

As discussed at the personal interview, the claimed notification position—that is, a position at which the user is notified of an approaching feature (e.g., landmark)—is stored in memory as “mesh information,” rather than being calculated as a distance from the coordinates of the feature and the vehicle.

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The claim amendment does not introduce any new subject matter. However, the amendment is supported in the specification at page 30, line 20 to page 31, line 3. The following paragraphs, starting at page 31, line 4, recite advantages:

With this structure, ... compared to a structure in which the feature and the guidance position are respectively represented by coordinates... the storage section 440 [stores less information, and] as the terminal unit 300 is not required high processing ability [e.g., continuously calculating the distance] and a mobile phone can serve sufficiently as the terminal unit 300, the field of use thereof may be expanded. Also, the size and the weight of the terminal unit 300 can be easily reduced ...

A pair of the feature position and the guidance position associated with each other to make a pair as one data structure. Thus, information for the orbis (unattended vehicle speed sensor), a shop and a sightseeing spot in all over the country can be collectively managed, and the information for providing the guidance on the feature can be acquired at the same time, thereby facilitating the data processing.

The sub-areas, to which the unique mesh information for representing the position are related, define cells of a matrix. Thus the feature position and the guidance position can be readily specified with a simple data structure.

Further, since the data structure is employed so that the guidance information for navigation is associated with the feature guidance information as one data, the information for providing the guidance for the feature at the same time can be readily acquired, thereby facilitating maintenance of the data.

As was mentioned at the interview, the claimed subject matter allows that the notification point can be chosen so that the driver will not be told of the feature until any intervening obstacles, such as a hill, are out of the driver's line of vision. This is not practical with coordinate distance-based notification, which the Examiner stated is the prior art.

By the present clarifying amendment, the novel subject matter is more readily apparent.

The Examiner is thanked for the personal interview and the notification to the undersigned attorney that this Supplemental Amendment would be entered.

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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (571-273-8300) on May 12, 2008.

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Signature